

2024 NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit

Featured Speakers

John Bauters



John J. Bauters is a Councilmember and the former Mayor of the City of Emeryville, California. In addition to serving on the Emeryville City Council since 2016, he serves as Chair of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. He has been an outspoken leader on sustainable land use, affordable housing development, environmental justice, and active transportation policies that support equitable, people-oriented communities.

In Emeryville, John has been leading the transformation of his city from a car-centric community to one that prioritizes creating safe transit and active transportation choices. At the county level, John championed the development of Alameda CTC's Race & Equity Action Plan, Alameda County's 400-mile Countywide Bikeways Plan, and has successfully led efforts to secure millions in state and federal funding for safety, public transit, and car-free transportation infrastructure projects to Alameda County.

In 2023, Escape Magazine named him one of the 50 Most Influential People on American cycling.

Barkha Patel



Barkha R Patel is the Director of Infrastructure for the City of Jersey City, NJ, one of the most densely-populated, transit-rich, and ethnically diverse cities in the US. She oversees the planning, design, and implementation of the City's critical public infrastructure including all municipal streets, transit, parks, public spaces, buildings, and other public facilities. She serves as a senior advisor to the Mayor and leads the City's Architecture, Engineering, Transportation, Sustainability, and Innovation agencies.

As a public official and advocate, Barkha's work is rooted in a commitment to justice, equity, and smart growth. She is responsible for the development and implementation of many of Jersey City's most transformational initiatives including the City's first Vision Zero and Climate Action plans, first on-demand microtransit system, a robust network of protected bikeways and safe streets, a renowned plaza program, innovative parks and public spaces, and a number of award-winning placemaking projects. As her portfolio expands, she is currently exploring ways to infuse joy and dignity into the public realm through meaningful infrastructure improvements.

Barkha previously served as Jersey City's Deputy City Manager and Director of Transportation, and earned a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the Bloustein School at Rutgers University.

Ryan Sharp



Ryan Sharp has served as the Director of Transportation and Parking for the City of Hoboken since 2017. He is responsible for the safe, equitable, and efficient operation of Hoboken's surface transportation systems.

Ryan oversees Hoboken's award-winning Complete Streets and Vision Zero Programs, which have received national acclaim after seven consecutive years without a traffic death. Ryan is also responsible for Hoboken's shared mobility programs and green transportation initiatives, such as bike share, car share, local public transit, and the buildout of New Jersey's largest public on-street EV charging network.

Ryan also oversees Hoboken's Parking Utility, which generates over \$22 million annually in revenue and is responsible for curbside management, maintenance and operation of municipal parking facilities, permit parking, and more.

Anna Zivarts



Anna Zivarts is a low-vision parent, nondriver and author of *When Driving Is Not an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency* (Island Press, 2024). Anna created the #WeekWithoutDriving challenge and is passionate about bringing the voices of nondrivers to the planning and policy-making tables. Anna sits on the boards of the League of American Bicyclists, the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium and the Washington State Transportation Innovation Council. She also serves as a member of TRB's Committee on Public Health and Transportation (AME70) and the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center Coordinating Committee.